



# THE RAILSPLITTER

Published in the interest of the 84th Division (Institutional Training) and the U.S. Army Reserve.

Volume 1

Spring 2003



# Fighting While Transforming

By: Maj. Gen. Charles E. Gorton

It is a time to be proud of being a reservist and of being a Railsplitter. The Army Reserve has contributed almost 50,000 soldiers to Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom. The 84<sup>th</sup> Division (IT) has mobilized 124 soldiers for duty at Fort Benning, Georgia and other training installations throughout the county. The mobilized soldiers have come from Initial Entry Training Battalions and from The Army School System Battalions. Another 30 soldiers have been voluntarily and involuntarily reassigned from the 84<sup>th</sup> to other Reserve units that are mobilizing to bring them up to required strength. 84<sup>th</sup> Division (IT) instructors have also been involved in conducting numerous “pop-up” courses to MOS qualify Reserve soldiers for mobilizing units.

There have been numerous stories in the newspapers, on radio, and on TV about mobilizing reservists and their families. The TV news magazine “60 Minutes” did a story about the reliance of the military on the reserves. The Army Reserve provides 48% of the forces for the Army. The Army cannot go to war without the Army Reserve. The story also showed how mobilization affected the families of the soldiers—the missed loved ones, the burden of raising children as a single parent, reduced income for some families, and the pride in service of country.

Meanwhile, the Army continues to transform. At Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC), they talk about the soldier of the future. That soldier will be more self-sufficient, better equipped, better protected, and more capable. The drill sergeant of the future will become a personal trainer, coach and mentor to the new soldiers of the future. Equipment will be different. It will be more fuel efficient, more rugged, and have training simulators embedded so that training can be done at home stations instead of traveling to a training simulator elsewhere or going to the field. Mission rehearsals can be accomplished at home station or during deployment using simulations of the mission area of operations. Education and training will change for all ranks. Distance learning will be used more to reduce travel costs, let soldiers stay closer to home, and to spend more time on the job.

Furthermore, the Army will still have to stay ready for war by sustaining the legacy force while transforming. For the 84<sup>th</sup>, that means continuing to train and soldier recruits and to qualify soldiers in MOSs and military education. To do that, we must take care of ourselves. We must keep our strength up, keep our MOS training up, and keep up our readiness for mobilization.

Thank you for all that you do for the Railsplitters, for the Army Reserve and for the country.  
Strike Hard!



Major General E. Charles Gorton 84th DIV (IT) Commander (Army Photo)

## ON THE COVER...

From left to right: clockwise:  
Photo by Dan Chung (Pool/AP)  
Friendly search

A British soldier with the 1st Armor Division and an Iraqi share smiles during a search outside of Basra on March 24.

Photo by Romeo Gacad (AFP)  
Medic at the ready

Army crewmen of the medical evacuation air ambulance for the 3rd Infantry Division mark landing ground for their Blackhawk helicopter at an airfield in southern Iraq Monday. The Army has been conducting emergency missions for wounded U.S. soldiers and Iraqi prisoners of war around the clock.

Photo by Jerome Dalay (AP)  
Collateral damage

Muhammed, whose mother was killed when a missile landed in a residential neighborhood of Baghdad on Monday, killing three and wounding 23, waits outside the wall of the morgue at Baghdad's Al-Numan hospital for her body to be released for burial.

Photo by Jerry Lampen (Reuters)

Tossing a smoke

An Iraqi boy tosses a cigarette to Iraqi prisoners of war Sunday as they wait beside a road to the southern Iraqi city of Basra.

Photo by Cris Bouronde (AFP)

Mission accomplished

U.S. Marines from the 2nd Battalion, 8th Regiment emerge March 25 from a hospital outside Nasiriyah that they said had been taken over by Iraqi forces. Several platoons took part in the operation to secure the hospital, with no reported loss of American lives.



# THE RAILSPLITTER

## CONTENTS

- \*Abbott Laboratories CEO, Miles White, nominated for "My Boss is a Patriot" award ...page 5
- \*Distant Learning: the future of Army training...page 6-7
- \*84th Division visits the Lutheran Home...page 8
- \*84th DIV(IT) Change of Command ceremony...page 9
- \*84th Division Chief of Staff, Col. William D. McKeown retires... page 10
- \*Maj. Gen. Gorton receives the Legion of Merit Award... page 11
- \*8th Bde. receives MG Brown Award...page 11
- \*Healthcare Benefits for activated Reserve soldiers and families...page 12
- \*Reservist have questions about mobilization...page 12-13
- \*Commanders offers advice and vision...page 15
- \*Father and son share promotion...page 16
- \*McPhillips receives order of St. Maurice...page 16
- \*Stars and Stripes to deliver personal messages from home...page 17
- \*The 84th celebrates Armed Forces Day... page 18-19
- \*Family Readiness phone listing...page 20
- \*The 84th DIV prepares units for mobilization...page 21
- \*SSG Ketterer receives Direct Commission...page 21
- \*America at War...Page 22-23

### *Featured Columns...*

- General's Comments...page 2
- Command Sergeant Major's Message...page 4
- Chaplain's Message...page 14
- Message from LTG Helmly...page 24

### ***The Railsplitter***

#### **84th Division Commander**

Maj. Gen. Charles Gorton

#### **Public Affairs Officer**

Maj. Peter Berres

#### **Public Affairs Chief-Editor**

Spc. Melissa Hale

#### **Railsplitter Journalist**

Pvt.2 Henry Gaskins

The Railsplitter is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army Reserve. Its contents are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the 84th Division (Institutional Training).

The Railsplitter is published by the Public Affairs Office, 84th Division (IT), 4828 West Silver Spring Drive, Milwaukee, WI 53218-3498. Telephone: (414) 438-6151. Circulation 4,000.

All material submitted for publication should be mailed to the 84th Division PAO at the address above, faxed to (414) 438-6102 or emailed to: [peter.berres@us.army.mil](mailto:peter.berres@us.army.mil).

At a minimum submission should be in Microsoft Word format and include: title of story, author's name and title, unit affiliation and telephone number.

Submit photographs as color prints or in JPEG format and include: a list of those in the photo from left to right, their title and unit affiliation; photographers name, title and unit affiliation. We reserve the right to edit as needed.

For more Railsplitter news visit: [www.84thdivision.com](http://www.84thdivision.com).

## *The youth are our future, lead them well!*

NCO. What does that mean to you? If you're a soldier, it should mean Leadership, Guidance, Mentoring, and Personnel Welfare. Privates through Command Sergeants Major, our jobs are to take care of soldiers.

We haven't changed in all the years I've been in. I guess I see it more these days. I can walk through a company or training area and see that one private taking care of other soldiers of the same rank—they are the future leaders of the Army.

They are there, just look for them. Why am I telling you this? If these young soldiers are going to lead this Army of ours they need to be given the right tools. Our NCOES system saw that over 25 years ago and they rewrote and are still rewriting the POI's to keep up with modern doctrine. Our evaluation systems have changed to show what we have done in a "Rating Period"!

Here lies one of the challenges for the Raters and Senior Raters of the 84<sup>th</sup> Division NCOs. Counseling plays an important part in the NCOER's. It is very easy to do an NCOER if you and the rated soldier have agreed on the goals set in the counseling time period and required by the NCOER. It is an Inspector General complaint if a soldier has not been counseled for NCOER, or any other reason that counseling is required.

I found that quite interesting when the G-1 of the Army said this was high on the list of IG complaints.

The NCOER is very simple; tell what the soldier has done during the rated period. Was it a Success, Excellent, or did the soldier fail to accomplish any of the tasks set and agreed to in the counseling session. Potentially this is one of the most important parts of the NCOER. Tell us what the potential of this soldier is, promote ahead of peers, promote with peers, do not promote, or the soldier is ready for position of higher responsibility.

Command Sergeants Major and First Sergeants, your challenge is to train and mentor those officers that can make or break the NCOs. Yes, I mean Mentor and Train the youth and some senior officers. Command Sergeants Major and First Sergeants you will review all NCOERs before they leave your unit. If you don't have a copy of AR 623-205 dated 15 May 2002 the NCO Evaluation System, **You need to get it.** You can get it online.

The NCOER is "The Most Important" document in your promotion packet that your board members are reading about. It must be direct and to the point with: quantifiable, bulleted comments! What are your "duties and responsibilities" as a NCO? Does your NCOER Reflect what You have done in that rating period? What are the next requirement for the Command Sergeants Major and First Sergeants? You are responsible for the review of



CSM Charles A. Clark (Army Photo)

promotion packets before they leave your unit!

In August the 84th Division will hold it's NCO, Soldier, Drill Sergeant and Instructor of the Year competition at Ft. McCoy. There will be an In Person Board. (Except for Instructor of the Year) The MOI is on the Street. Ask your Command Sergeant Major or First Sergeant for a copy.

Last year's winners of Non-Commissioned Officer and Soldier of the Year will compete at Ft. McPherson, Ga. this June. Drill Sergeant of the Year will be held in June at Ft. Monroe, VA.

The 84th won the Instructor of the Year "TRADOC Level" in 2003!!! Congratulations to Staff Sgt. Larry Weichel. He is assigned to 1st Battalion 339th Regiment 7th Brigade.

I leave you with this final note, Today is here! Tomorrow is uncertain!

Please take care of the soldiers that choose to follow you as "their example of a leader"

Duty, Honor, Country  
Charles A. Clark  
CSM

# Abbott Laboratories CEO, Miles White, nominated for “My Boss is a Patriot” award

Story and photo by Abbott Employee

The Chief Executive Officer of one of the world's largest health care companies was recognized recently for his support of company employees who are affiliated with the Army Reserve.

Miles White, CEO of Abbott Laboratories was nominated for the “My Boss is a Patriot” award by Spc. Angelo Rivera, 6th Brigade (Professional Development) and his wife Ericka Rivera, a member of the unit's Family Readiness Program. During a brief ceremony at the north suburban Chicago headquarters of Abbott Laboratories, the Riveras presented Mr. White with the Army Reserve “My Boss is a Patriot” certificate while Col. Jill Morganthaler, Commander, 6th Brigade (Professional Development) watched with pride and appreciation.

“I was pleased when I found out that Spc. Rivera wanted to recognize Mr. White for fostering a supportive environment for Army Reservists,” said Col. Morganthaler.

Even though Spc. Rivera and his wife don't have a direct working relationship with Mr. White, they felt a need to express their appreciation to the man who leads their company.

“It is reassuring to know that Abbott Laboratories would



From left to right: Col. Jill Morganthaler, Ericka Rivera, Miles White and Spc. Angelo Rivera.

take care of my family if I ever got the call to mobilize,” said Spc. Rivera.

“I was pleasantly surprised and honored to learn that Angelo Rivera nominated me for this award. At Abbott, we take support of the armed forces and our employees who proudly serve our country in the Reserves very seriously. As a major corporation, helping our employees maintain balance between their work and personal lives is good for our business and our people,” said White.

The “My Boss is a Patriot” award was designed to recognize those employers who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to support employees who are

members of the National Guard and Reserve. The National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) awards each nominee a certificate and a Patriot lapel pin on behalf of the Department of Defense. All members of the National Guard and Reserve forces are eligible to nominate their employers for the “My Boss is a Patriot” certificate. This nomination is subsequently used by the local ESGR committee as the basis for consideration to receive higher level awards.

The Department of Defense established ESGR in 1972 to inform employers of the importance of the National Guard  
Continues on page 10



# Distance Learning, the future of Army training

Photos and story by Spc. Melissa Hale  
Railsplitter staff

The U.S. Army is bringing military training to the forefront of education technology with more than 400 Distributed Learning System (DLS) facilities worldwide.

“Distance learning will soon be the primary form of training for the Army”, stated Digital Training Facility Manager, Dawn M. Bennett. This new form of state of the art training was designed to improve the readiness and moral of soldiers, informed Bennett who is also a reservist with the 84<sup>th</sup> Division (Institutional Training).

This venture in distance learning already allows soldiers to take hundreds of military and civilian classes via the internet, CD-Rom and

---

“Distance learning will soon be the primary form of training for the Army”.

---

interactive video tele-conferencing (VTC). It also allows soldier to use *SmartForce* at no cost, informed Bennett. *SmartForce* is a cutting edge civilian e-learning company that offers 1500 self-paced courses in the areas of technology, certification preparations, business, e-learning and more.

“The Army is writing more than 525 MOSQ courses that will be available within the next ten years”, according to Bennett, “and they plan to have a DLS site within 50 miles of any soldier”.

This has all been made possible through a 10-year contract with IBM. Each classroom is designed the same and allows 12 to 16 students to train in one place. Classrooms are set up with two big screen TVs and a camera, which allows an interactive setting for questions and answers.

The Elmo is a special piece of equipment that all facilities also have. Like a projector, it allows objects to be seen in their true





**Master Sgt. Bruce Bryan, 84th DIV (Institutional Training) HHD works on a computer in the Distributed Learning System (DLS) center at the 84th DIV (IT) Headquarters.**

three dimensional form. It also gives the capability for documents to be signed, photographed and sent via e-mail to be signed by the other party.

The 84<sup>th</sup> DIV (IT) currently has 46 sites in the 6 state region that are available for use. (See the chart to the right for location near you.) While all military organizations and personnel come first, these facilities can also be used by state organizations, colleges and DOD civilians.

For more information or to set up an appointment, please call Dawn Bennett at 414-535-4101 or send her an e-mail at [dawn.Bennett@us.army.mil](mailto:dawn.Bennett@us.army.mil)

Available CDRom courses can be viewed on the next page.

**Left: Dawn Bennett, Digital Training Facility Manager, demonstrates how this high-tech distance learning center works during a power point presentation. She is surrounded by two 37 inch TVs, a computer and a camera, which is on Master Sgt. Bruce Bryan for questions and answers.**

**Right: Sgt. First Class Dawn Bennett shows Master Sgt. Bryan how to log into his AKO account. All computers have high speed internet connections and are set up with Windows programs.**

#### Distributed Learning System (DLS) centers

##### Wisconsin

Appleton  
Chippewa Falls  
Ft. McCoy  
Madison  
Milwaukee  
Tomahawk

##### Indiana

Bloomington  
Edinburgh  
Evansville  
Ft. Ben Harrison  
Ft Wayne  
Indianapolis  
Lafayette  
South Bend  
Valparaiso

##### Illinois

Arlington Heights  
Crestwood  
East St. Louis  
Ft Sheridan  
Marion  
Milan  
N. Riverside  
Springfield  
Urbana

##### Michigan

Augusta  
Camp Grayling  
Flint  
Lansing  
Southfield  
Taylor  
Wyoming

##### Minnesota

Arden Hills  
Bemidji  
Camp Ripley  
Duluth  
Ft Snelling  
Inver Grove Hts.  
Minneapolis  
Montevideo  
Moorhead  
Rochester

##### Ohio

Akron  
Cincinnati  
Columbus  
Evansville  
Sharonville





## 84th Division visits the Lutheran Home

Story and Photo by: Pvt 2 Henry Gaskins

During their March weekend drill, soldiers from the 84<sup>th</sup> Division (HHC) took time to spend with veterans and some older citizens at The Lutheran Home, an assisted-living facility in Milwaukee.

The soldiers ate lunch and mingled with the residents for a little while, talking mostly about the military and sharing old war stories. Each soldier stood up in front of about 50 residents of The Lutheran Home to introduce him or herself and describe their roll in today's Army.

Some of the directors at The Lutheran Home said that since the residents don't get to see very much action anymore, they were thankful that the Army had a chance to visit with them on a personal basis.



Staff Sgt. Jerri G. Jefferson spends some one-on-one time with a resident of the Lutheran Home



**New Chaplain Takes Oath of Office** - Timothy W. Routh, a Lutheran pastor in New London, Wisconsin, takes the Oath of Office in April, at the Army Recruiting Office in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. Routh's wife, Shari, holds the Bible. Chaplain (LTC) James DeCamp, 84<sup>th</sup> Division Chaplain, administers the Oath of Office.



# 84th Division welcomes new command

Photos and story by:  
Master Sgt. Robert Cargie

Maj. Gen. Charles E. Gorton assumed command of the 84th Division (Institutional Training) on a sunny, breezy Milwaukee afternoon Sept. 15.

A native of Lexington, Ky., Gorton takes over leadership from Maj. Gen. Robert W. Smith, III, who commanded the division since September 1998.

With more than 30 years in the military, including eight years on active duty, Gorton is a graduate of the U.S. Army War College and holds a master's degree in management from Georgia State University. He has served in

numerous command and staff positions.

His military decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, with two oak leaf clusters; the Army Commendation Medal, with three oak leaf clusters; the Army Achievement Medal, with two oak leaf clusters; the Expert Infantry Badge; the Parachutist Badge; and the Ranger Tab.

As a civilian, Gorton is deputy commissioner of administration for the Lexington-Fayette County Health Department.

Gorton, who was promoted to major general during the change of command ceremony, predicted that wartime challenges and Army transformation may require the division to "change what we do and the way that we do it."

Lt. Gen. James R. Helmly, Chief of the Army Reserve, who presided over the ceremony, predicted that the division would continue to improve under Gorton's leadership, emphasizing the importance of "training our soldiers to prepare themselves for the war that the nation is engaged in today."

Helmly praised Smith for his leadership of the division, calling him "a citizen soldier who embodies the warrior ethos." Smith, Helmly said, led the division while balancing his duties as a Ford Motor Company executive and "you did it so well and made it look easy."



**Lt. Gen. James Helmly, second from left, passes the colors of the 84th Division (IT) to Brig. Gen. Charles Gorton, new Division Commander, Division Chief of Staff Col. William McKeown look on.**



**Lt. Gen. James Helmly, Chief, Army Reserve, shakes the hand of eight-year-old Jordan Smith, son of Maj. Gen. Robert W. Smith during an award ceremony for the outgoing 84th Division commander. Looking on are Maj. Gen. Smith's wife, Linda, and Maj. Gen. Smith and his sister, Joyce Hendricks.**

Under Smith, the slogan, "Before there is a warfighter, there is a trainer," developed and spread to all seven reserve training divisions, said Helmly.

"We are training the warfighter so that the enemy can keep their appointment with God sooner than later," Smith told those assembled for the command change.

He noted that the 84th Division provided two drill sergeants of the year and one instructor of the year during the past two years,

**story continues on page 11**

## 84th Division Chief of Staff, Col. William D. McKeown retires

Railsplitter staff

The 84th Division (Institutional Training) said its farewells to Col. William D. McKeown, 84th DIV(IT) Chief of Staff, this past November at the Woman's Club of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. The evening, which was hosted by Maj. Gen. Charles E. Gorton, included a reception in honor of McKeown with dinner and dancing.

Colonel McKeown was born in Chicago, IL. He was commissioned through the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at John Carroll University, University Heights, Ohio in May of 1970 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. He also holds a Juris Doctor degree from the Columbus School of Law, Catholic University of America, Washington D.C., where he was a member of the law review.

With over 32 years of commissioned service, Colonel McKeown has completed numerous leadership and strategic management courses to include the Transportation Officer Basic and Advance Courses, the Command and General Staff College, the Senior Officers Logistics Management Course, the Reserve Component National Security Course and the Associate Logistics Executive Development Course.

Col. McKeown's military assignments in the 84th Division (IT) include Receiving Branch and Initial Process Branch Officer in Charge, 5091st Reception Station, Executive Officer and Commander, HHC, 5091st Reception Station; Motor Pool Officer and S-3, 84th Logistics Group; Executive Officer, Weapons and Equipment Battalion; Force Development Officer; Assistant Chief of Staff, G-4 and Deputy Chief of Staff, Logistics and Deputy Chief of Staff, Personnel.

McKeown's awards include the Meritorious Service Medal (with three Oak Leaf Clusters), the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal (with Bronze Service Star), and the Armed Forces Reserve Medal (with Hourglass device).

Col. McKeown assumed his duties as Chief of Staff, 84th Division (IT) on 1 January 1999. He also currently serves as the Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff section of the Senior Army Reserve Commanders Association (SARCA).

In his civilian life Col. McKeown is a Administrative Law Judge for the Department of Workforce Development, State of Wisconsin. He and his wife, Kathleen live in Cedarburg, WI and have two children, Brigid and Casey.



**Col. William D. McKeown** (U.S. Army stock photo)

---

### Abbott Laboratories CEO continues...

and Reserve to national security. This is accomplished through several different programs, including "Briefings with the Boss," which is an informal forum for employers, commanders and service members to discuss issues arising from employee participation in the National Guard and Reserves.

"Bosslifts," another ESGR program, provides employers and supervisors with transportation to military training sites where they can observe service members on duty as part of the Total Force, providing a better understanding of what their employees do when they are away from their civilian occupation for duty.

## Maj. Gen. Gorton awarded the Legion of Merit award

Maj. Gen. Charles E. Gorton, 84th Division (Institutional Training) Commander was presented the Legion of Merit award in March. He received the award for meritorious service while serving as Assistant Division Commander for the 100th Division (Institutional Training) Louisville, KY.

Maj. Gen. Gorton was recognized by Maj. Gen. John R. Tindall, Jr., 100th Div (IT) Commander for his crucial leadership of successes that established the 100th Div (IT) as the premiere institutional training division in the United States Army Reserve.

"It is a great honor to receive an award like this", states Gorton. "and the fact that Gen. Tindall came here to present the award himself made it even more special."

The Legion of Merit award is one of the highest honors one can receive during their military career.



Maj. Gen. Gorton's wife, Linda receives flowers from Maj. Gen. John R. Tindall Jr.



Col. Paul Crandall and CSM John Thompson along with Members of the 8th Brigade proudly show their award.

## The 8th Brigade receives the MG Brown award

Maj. Gen. Charles E Gorton presented the MG Brown award to the 8th Brigade this past December.

The MG Brown Award is presented to the unit who best accomplishes its annual mission.

The 8th Brigade is an ROTC Training Brigade that is 82 soldiers strong and commanded by Col. Paul Crandall. The 8th Brigade supports approximately 20 universities by providing ROTC instruction. They assist universities in Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Michigan.

### 84th Division welcomes new command continues...

pioneered use of the laser marksmanship training system and incorporated distance learning. "You know how to lead and be a part of this premiere force," he told the soldiers of the 84th.

Though headed for another assignment, "I will always be a Railsplitter at heart," Smith said.

The 84th Division was founded on Aug. 17, 1917 in Kentucky and "I turn it over to the 24th Commander from Kentucky," said Smith.



## Healthcare Benefits for activated Reserve soldiers and families

Reserve soldiers on active duty for more than thirty days have comprehensive health care coverage under TRICARE PRIME. The soldier family's health and dental care needs are covered under several TRICARE options, all of which are designed to meet their needs. Correct information in the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System (DEERS) is the key for family member benefits.

Coverage under TRICARE Standard is automatic for family members and starts the first day of active duty service. For families to receive TRICARE Prime benefits, the soldier must be on orders for greater than 179 days and must fill out the enrollment forms for his family members to be enrolled in TRICARE Prime.

The primary resource for TRICARE benefits and other health information is found at the website [www.tricare.osd.mil](http://www.tricare.osd.mil). This website includes frequently asked questions. Information about TRICARE medical and dental care may also be obtained by calling the Beneficiary Counseling and Assistance Officer (BCAO) at the nearest military treatment facility or calling the toll free TRICARE number listed in the website and attached listing. In addition, the Regional Support Commands (RSC) have Family Readiness Coordinators; attached is a copy of the points of contact by RSC.

Reserve component soldiers on active duty for more than 30 days in support of contingency operations may be eligible for transitional healthcare benefits when released from active duty. For more information, call the TRICARE region toll free number listed in the website.

Reserve soldiers called to active duty, and their employers, have certain rights and responsibilities under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployments Rights Act (USERRA). It is the soldier's responsibility to know his individual rights under this act, and to know his employer's policy regarding health care coverage if deployed. The family members of a soldier called to active duty have the right to be continued for up to 18 months under the employer sponsored health plan. The soldier must notify his employer if he wants to continue coverage; otherwise the family may be dropped from the plan.

If the soldier continues his employer-sponsored coverage, he may be responsible for some, or all of the plan's entire premium. If the soldier chooses not to continue coverage under his civilian employer health plan while on active duty, the soldier and any previously covered family members are entitled to be reinstated in the plan, without a waiting period and without penalty for pre-existing conditions other than a service-connected disability. For additional information and guidance, contact the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Ombudsman program at 1-800-336-4590.



Article by: Colonel Paul S. Ruble  
**Reservist Being Called to Active Duty Frequently Asked Questions**

## *Reservists have questions about mobilization*

**I am being called to active duty and have questions about my employer provided pension and health benefits. Where can I get more information about my benefits?**

The Department of Labor's Veteran's Employment and Training Service (VETS) has information for veterans, National Guard or reservists who may be activated for

military service. National Guard and Reserve members called to active duty, and their civilian employers have certain rights and responsibilities under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA). VETS has developed a fact sheet and an interactive computer program, the USERRA Advisor, which addresses the rights

and responsibilities of individuals and their employers under the law. These tools, and other USERRA information, can be found on the Vets website [www.dol.gov/vets](http://www.dol.gov/vets).

**My family had health coverage through my employer when I was called for active duty in the military. Should I continue with my employer plan or switch to TRICARE.**

This is an individual decision and needs to be carefully considered. Two laws protect your right to continue health coverage under an employment-based group health plan. The Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA) provides health coverage continuation rights to employees and their families. The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA) is intended to minimize the disadvantages that occur when a person needs to be absent from civilian employment to serve in the uniformed services. Both COBRA and USERRA generally allow individuals called for active duty to continue coverage for themselves and their dependants under an employment-based group health plan for 18 months. If the period of coverage exceeds 30 days, the employer can require the employee to pay up to 102% of the insurance cost. For periods of 30 days or less, the employer may require the employee's share of the coverage, if any. It is the responsibility of the individual soldier to check with his employer about the status of his health care plan to see what his

financial responsibility will be if deployed. Useful websites are [www.dol.gov](http://www.dol.gov) and [www.Esgr.org](http://www.Esgr.org).

**I choose to keep my employer health plan while on active duty. Does TRICARE provide any benefits for my family?**

Eligible family members are automatically covered under TRICARE standard. If orders for active duty are greater than 179 days, family members may be enrolled in TRICARE PRIME. If the soldier continues his employer healthcare insurance, TRICARE will only pay after the employer healthcare plan has paid. TRICARE information and telephone numbers are found at the website [www.tricare.osd.mil](http://www.tricare.osd.mil)



**What happens if I switch my family completely to TRICARE and either I or my family member develops an ailment that makes them uninsurable?**

If you choose not to continue coverage under your civilian employer health plan while on active duty, you and your previously covered family members are entitled to be reinstated in your employer-sponsored health plan when you return to work, without a waiting period and without penalty for pre-existing conditions (other than a service connected disability).

**I did not have health insurance prior to being called to active duty. My family member develops a severe medical problem that will require treatment after my term of service ends.**

Depending on years of active federal service, soldiers serving for contingency operations and their families are entitled to either 60 or 120 days of TRICARE benefits upon REFRAD. This program is called the Transitional Assistance Management Program (TAMP). TAMP covers pre-existing conditions so if the sponsor is leaving active duty and a family member has an illness, they continue with health care.

A second program, the Continued Health Care Benefit Program (CHCBP) is available when TAMP coverage expires. Unlike TAMP, CHCBP is a premium based program. The benefits are similar to TRICARE standard and TRICARE Extra. It is not an inexpensive program. The individual premium is \$933 per quarter. For the family, it is \$1,966 per quarter. Pre-existing conditions are covered.

**I am not smart enough to figure this out for myself. Who can help me?**

TRICARE information is provided by Family Readiness Coordinators in the Regional Support Commands (RSC). The Regional Support Command Surgeon can also assist with directing your questions to the nearest TRICARE Service Center or TRICARE Region you live in.

## The Chaplain's corner

### “Division Chaplain Hosts Chaplain Recruiting Breakfast”

Chaplain recruiters came to the Knotty Pine Restaurant in Oostburg, Wisconsin in March.

“We are always looking for quality new chaplains,” said CH (LTC) James DeCamp, Division Chaplain of the 84th DIV(IT). “Our weekly pastors’ breakfast includes several young pastors, so I asked the recruiters to come and answers questions about serving God and country as a Reserve chaplain.” The 84th DIV(IT) currently has open positions for four chaplains. Pictured on the left are Chaplain (MAJ) Steve Langehough and SFC Jamille Phillips of the U. S. Army Recruiting Command. Chaplain (LTC) DeCamp explained criteria for becoming a chaplain, and answered questions about the accessioning process. Chaplain DeCamp is on the right, sporting the Railsplitter patch.



### “Gideons Present Bibles to 84th Division (IT) Soldiers”



Mr. John McCullough of the Racine Gideons Camp presents 100 Bibles to Division Chaplain, CH (LTC) James DeCamp, in January. “The Gideons offer spiritual encouragement by donating Bibles for soldiers’ use,” DeCamp said, “and we appreciate their support. Especially at a time when many Reserve soldiers are away from their families, this is a help to our people.” The Gideons Bibles are pocket-size, and are easily carried by soldiers.

**Photo: John McCullough with Chaplain James A DeCamp, HHC, 84th Division (IT).**



# Commanders offer advice and vision

By Master Sgt. Vern Borth  
Railsplitter staff

Senior leaders of the 84th Division (Institutional Training) received a division appraisal and some advice from the division's departing commander and a taste of the new commander's vision for the division Sept. 14.

Maj. Gen. Robert W. Smith, III noted that the division's strength was at 87 percent and urged the senior leaders to visit recruiters and "start to make sure we're on the screen." Drill sergeant numbers have increased, but are still lower than in the fourth quarter of 2000, he told the senior division leaders at the Senior Leaders Conference at the Sheraton Milwaukee, Brookfield, Wis.

Leaders need to work to get instructors trained for The Army School System and TASS personnel may have to perform annual training in non-summer months, Smith said. The leaders need to improve the division's completion rate of efficiency ratings for officers and enlisted personnel, he said.

The division is a leader with 87 percent military occupational specialty qualification, said Smith.

He noted high morale in the division and praise received from all over the country, highlighting interest in the laser marksmanship training system and beginning of

1st Infantry Division distance learning through Fort McCoy, Wis.

Smith urged promotion of awards programs for soldiers and Army civilians. "You need to make sure they have those bragging rights after drill."

Incoming commander Maj. Gen. Charles Gorton is "getting the premier trainer for the warfighters," said Smith.

Gorton said emphasis should be on making sure the division is ready to train soldiers for war in Afghanistan and a potential war in Iraq.

He noted transformation of the Army to a lighter force and that duty MOS qualification will be quicker and more responsive.

Training divisions, which now number 12 (7 institutional training and 5 training support), will be cooperating on combined missions in TASS, initial entry training and drill sergeant schools. New missions for the 84th could be officer basic course, pre-initial entry training and weapons training, Gorton said.

He urged maintaining accountability for personnel and equipment, following the guides of "plan, execute and monitor."

Gorton's pet peeve? The sentence, "I didn't want to bother you." When in doubt ... report.

**He outlined some of his priorities:**

- ❖ **Missions first; people always.**
- ❖ **Organizational development — strength and DMOSQ.**
- ❖ **Family readiness.**
- ❖ **Fitness and weight control.**
- ❖ **Recognition of exceptional performance.**
- ❖ **NCO business — individual training and informal.**
- ❖ **Officer business — unit and collective training and readiness.**
- ❖ **Counseling coaching and mentoring— insure officers and NCOs know next awards.**
- ❖ **Communication with staff — ask commander if you don't understand.**
- ❖ **Bring solutions, not just problems — or at least say what's been done before.**
- ❖ **Make efficiency reports factual and quantified and on time.**



**Sgt. Gorton gets pinned by father, Maj. Gen. Charles Gorton and mother Linda Gorton.**

## Father and son share promotion

Story by Vern Broth,  
Railsplitter Staff

Spec. Clay Gorton pinned an extra star on his father's beret this past September. Not to be outdone, Maj. Gen. Charles E. Gorton, new commander of the 84th Division (Institutional Training), pinned sergeant stripes on his son's collar.

"It isn't everyday that a specialist gets to promote somebody," quipped Lt. Gen. James Helmly, Chief of the Army Reserve, who conducted the promotion ceremony for the new 84th commander.

Sgt. Gorton, with a military occupational specialty of 11C, mortar, was stationed on active duty at Fort Meyer, Va. with the Presidential Salute Battery, 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (Old Guard). Part of his duties were firing a 105-mm ceremonial howitzer for arriving dignitaries and for funerals for general officers in the Arlington, Va. and Washington, D.C. area.

He planned to leave active duty in November and try to go to Drill Sergeants school as a member of the Reserve. He also planned to enter ROTC at college in 2003.

## McPhillips receives Order of St. Maurice

Sgt. 1st Class Wayne McPhillips, Drill Sergeant School, 6th Brigade (Professional Development) was awarded the Military Order of Saint Maurice during the 84th Division (Institutional Training) senior leaders conference this past September in Milwaukee.

The award, given by the National Infantry Association and authorized by the chief of infantry, U.S. Army Infantry Center, Fort Benning, Ga., recognizes individuals who have contributed significantly to the infantry and exhibited the highest standards of integrity and professional competence.

McPhillips the U.S. Army Reserve's drill sergeant of the year for 2001, was recognized for that achievement and for assisting the Training and Doctrine Command commander during installation visits; service on the initial entry training strategy review task force; service on the drill sergeant school program of instruction review task force; and service as liaison between the Army Reserve command sergeant major and training divisions.

The award is given in honor of Saint Maurice, who led a legion of Christians from upper Egypt in service to the Roman Empire in 287. During a campaign in what is now France, Maurice and his legion refused an order by Emperor Maximian Herculus to offer pagan sacrifice prior to a battle and to kill innocent civilians. The emperor ordered every tenth member of the legion killed and repeated his order. When the legion refused again, Maximian ordered a second decimation. Maurice still refused and the emperor had Maurice and the rest of the legion killed.

## Stars and Stripes to deliver personal messages from home

Members of the retiree community with family members and friend deployed to the Persian Gulf region and other overseas locations will soon be able to send personal messages to them via the pages of Stars and Stripes.



“Messages of Support,” a daily section debuting March 17, will give family and friends of deployed service members a chance to pass their greetings, words of encouragement and announcements free of charge.

“In the past few weeks, we’ve received a significant number of e-mail messages from spouses, parents, friends and others trying to get in contact with their loved ones serving in the Persian Gulf region. Running messages from folks on the home front seemed like a natural extension of our mission,” said Stars and Stripes Publisher Thomas Kelsch.

“Messages of Support” can be e-mailed to Stars and Stripes 24 hours a day at [messages@estripes.com](mailto:messages@estripes.com), are limited to 50 words or less and will be printed on a first-come, first-run basis. Stars and Stripes reserves the right to screen and edit all messages and to omit any determined inappropriate.

Stars and Stripes is the editorially independent, Defense Department-authorized daily newspaper distributed overseas for the U.S. military community. It provides commercially available U.S. and world news and objective, staff-produced stories relevant to the military community in a balanced, fair and accurate manner. Stripes is currently increasing its Middle East circulation with the goal of providing one paper for every three persons stationed there.

Photo by Joe Raedle/Getty Images)

Softening up

U.S. Marines from Task Force Tarawa wait before moving in as the Iraqi 23 Infantry Brigade building is hit Monday in Nasiriyah.





# The Military celebrates Armed Forces Day

Story by: Pvt. Henry Gaskins &  
Spc. Melissa Hale

Photos by: Pvt. Henry Gaskins

Members from the Army, Navy, Coast Guard, Air Force, and Marines came together at the Milwaukee Brewers' Miller Park on May 17 to celebrate Armed Forces Day, baseball style.

Before the game, new recruits from all services stood on the field to be sworn in to their soon-to-be new life of military.

The 132<sup>nd</sup> Army Band had the opportunity to play the national anthem while servicemembers saluted the flag. There were almost 20,000 people in attendance for the game.



**Sgt. First Class Robert Ayala of the 84<sup>th</sup> Division (IT) HHC throws the first pitch on Armed Forces Day at Miller Park.**



**The Milwaukee Brewers won the game against the Cincinnati Reds with a three-run homer in the bottom of the ninth inning.**



**Navy Capt. Emily Hopkins, Lt. Victor Chen, Seaman Matt O'Mally, and JO2 Christopher Bennett from the Navy Information Bureau 713 and JO2 Nick DeLaCruz from Great Lakes Naval Base got the chance to meet Mr. Baseball himself, Bob Uecker.**



A small crowd came to view the traveling wall during ceremonies held on Sunday.

Milwaukee's lake front Veteran's Park was host to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, American Veterans Traveling Tribute during Armed Forces weekend. The memorial which is a 4/5 scale model of the real memorial in Washington D.C. was brought to Milwaukee by the Harley Davidson Foundation and the American Veterans Traveling Tribute.

A short ceremony including the Presentation of Colors, and the playing of Taps was held early Sunday morning before the wall headed to California. Several members of the 84th DIV (IT) participated in the ceremony, which honored the soldiers who gave their lives in defense of freedom.

To learn more about the traveling tribute visit the American Veterans Traveling Tribute at [www.avtt.org](http://www.avtt.org).



Cpl. Cleveland Wesby stands at Parade Rest during ceremonies held at Veterans Park in Milwaukee.



The 84th Division Band held a concert during Armed Forces weekend at a local school in Milwaukee. (Photo by Capt. Monica Radtke)



Soldiers from the 84th DIV (IT) were the Color Guard for the ceremony held at Veterans Field in Milwaukee. From left to right: Sgt. Maj. Frank H. Park, Staff Sgt. Jerri G. Jefferson, Sgt. First Class Karl P. Cherry, Sgt. First Class Kerry L. Flowers, Sgt. First Class Thomas M. Pagac, Sgt. Douglas G. White and Cpl. Cleveland Wesby. Parker is a retired IMA Soldier from Ft. Sill, Jefferson and Wesby are from the 84th HHC, Cherry, Pagac, White and Flowers are from the 84th, 3rd of 334 Drill Sgt. Battalion.



***Family Readiness...***

<b>RSC</b>	<b>Coordinator</b>	<b>Phone</b>	
9th RSC	Ms Kim Goffor	808-438-1600 ext 3191	Family Readiness
		Request support From Tricare Region Office.	
63rd RSC	Ms Kathryn Ashford		Family Readiness /
Tricare			
65th RSC			
70th RSC	Ms Beltran	206-301-2311	Tricare
	Mr Channing MCBride	206-281-1331	Family Readiness
	Mr Bryon Morgan	206-281-3134	Family Readiness
77th RSC	Mr Koegle	718-352-5756	Family Readiness/Tricare
	Mr Gittens	718-352-5776	
	Surgeons off	718-352-5640	
81st RSC	Mr Walter Goodrich	205-795-1735	Family Readiness Prog
Man			
	Ms Fay Anthony	205-795-1756	Family Readiness Coord.
88th RSC	MSG Michael Evans	800-843-2769 ext 3955 Ft Snelling	Family Readiness/Tricare
	Ms Renee Krueger	612-290-0926 Wisconsin	
	Mr Robert Russell	612-290-0928 Michigan	
89th RSC	Ms Kristine Heck	316-681-1759 -ext 1389	Family Readiness/Tricare
90th RSC	Mr Al Balint	501-771-7838	Family Readiness/Tricare
94th RSC	Mr Rich Croucher	978-796-2260	Family Readiness/Tricare
96th RSC	Ms Amelia Bourne	801-6563400	Family Readiness/Tricare
	Ms Nicole Ewbanks	801-656-3398	Family Readiness/Tricare
99th RSC	Ms Barbara Wilson	412-604-8319	Family Readiness
	Ms Patricia Cudido	412-604-8355	Tricare

The units brief their soldiers and then refer them to the Tricare Web site for their Region

**Regional Toll Free Number (operational 24 hours)**

Northeast (1)	1-888-999-5195
MidAtlantic(2)	1-800-931-9501
Southeast (3)	1-800-444-5445
GulfSouth (4)	1-800-444-5445
Hearland (5)	1-800-941-4501
Southwest(6)	1-800-406-2832
Central(7/8)	1-888-874-9378
Southern California(9)	1-800-242-6788
Golden Gate(10)	1-800242-6788
Northwest(11)	1-800-404-2042
Alaska (11)	1-800-242-6788

**Tricare Pacific**

Hawaii	1-800-242-6788
Westpac	1-888-777-8343
Latin America& Canada	1-888-777-8343
Puerto Rico	1-888-777-8343
Virgin Islands	1-888-777-8343
Europe	1-888-777-8343

Deers Enrollment	1-800-538-9552
Tricare Dental Program	1-800-866-8499
CONUS & OCONUS	





## The 84th DIV(IT) prepares units for mobilization

Kurt Labreche and his two-year old daughter Natalie look on, while members of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 334 Regiment, 7<sup>th</sup> Brigade receive a mobilization briefing at the 84th DIV Headquarters.

Kurt's wife, Sgt Tonia J. Labreche, is on a list of soldiers heading to Ft. Benning in support of the military movements in Iraq.

"It feels as if I am losing the ying to my yang", stated Kurt as he looked on.



Photo by Spc. Melissa Hale, Railsplitter staff

Like many soldiers Kurt is worried how his children will be affected while their mother is gone. He also worries about childcare and says that grandparents are going to be a big support.

## SSG Ketterer Receives Direct Commission

SSG Todd Ketterer recently accomplished something that few in the military ever do; he received a direct commission as an officer in the United States Military. This is a very rare accomplishment because most soldiers who become officers do so by attending either a military academy, such as West Point, by completing ROTC while they attend college or by attending the resident officers course at Fort Benning, Georgia. Instead of following one of these routes, SSG Ketterer served as an enlisted soldier for over seven years becoming a non-commissioned officer and a drill sergeant and then applied to be an officer without attending any of the formal schooling. This is such a rare occurrence because an individual that chooses this path must meet a number of very rigorous requirements culminating with the convening of a special board at the Division level that must approve of this action. Few soldiers ever attempt this and fewer still make it through. SSG Ketterer credits the steadfast support of his family and loved ones throughout this process with providing the inspiration to follow through on this difficult process. 2LT Ketterer currently serves as the acting company commander of D Company, 2/274, 2<sup>nd</sup> BDE, 84<sup>th</sup> DIV (IT) out of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He is awaiting school dates to attend the Infantry Officer Basic Course.

# America at War



## Missile launch

Sailors launch a Tomahawk missile Sunday from the missile cruiser USS Cape St. George. The cruiser, stationed in the eastern Mediterranean Sea, has taken part in strikes against Iraqi targets. (Photo by Kenneth Mool, US Navy)



## Mourning a soldier

Soldiers of the U.S. 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, pay last respects Monday during a memorial service for Capt. Christopher Seifert at Camp Pennsylvania in Kuwait. Seifert was killed when a grenade was rolled into tents early Sunday, allegedly by a fellow U.S. soldier. The attack left 15 other soldiers wounded. (Photo by PFC James Matisse, US Army)

## Nothing fishy

K-Dog, a bottle-nose dolphin belonging to Commander Task Unit trains with Petty Officer Andrew Garrett in the Arabian Gulf. These units are working to ensure shipping lanes are clear of mines for humanitarian relief. (Photo by PH1 Brian Aho, US Navy)



## On guard

U.S. Marines protect their position along a highway in southern Iraq on Saturday beneath the overhanging plume from a burning oil well. (Photo by Timothy Fadek, Polaris)



## Taking care of their own

A wounded Marine is helped to treatment during an intense firefight March 23 just outside Nasiriyah, a town on the road to Baghdad. Nine Marines were killed when an Iraqi unit indicated it was giving up, then opened fire. About 40 Marines were wounded. (Photo by Joe Raedle)



Prisoner

A woman  
Shoshan  
POWs s  
Jazeera  
after Ira  
Nasiriy  
west of

De  
So  
Div  
in t  
run  
by





#### War at sunrise

U.S. Army 3rd Infantry Division soldiers secure a field near Najaf, Iraq, early Sunday. The U.S.-led forces were within 100 miles of Baghdad, but had encountered some areas of stiff resistance from Iraqi troops. (Photo by John Moore, AP)



#### Outgoing

Members of the U.S. 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit load a mortar during a pitched battle with Iraqi forces at the port in Umm-Qsar in southern Iraq on Sunday. (Photo by Simon Walker, Pool)



#### Gas alert

U.S. Army soldiers from the A Company 3rd Battalion 7th Infantry Regiment go to full chemical alert — referred to as MOPP 4 — in the Kuwaiti desert Thursday as Iraqi missiles were fired into Kuwait. U.S. officials told NBC News that two missiles were intercepted by Patriot batteries and one fell within a mile of U.S. troops but caused no injuries. (Photo by John Moore)



er of war  
an identified by relatives as U.S. Army Spc.  
Dawn Johnson, of 507th Maintenance, was one of five  
shown Sunday on the Arab satellite news channel al-  
U.S. officials confirmed that 12 soldiers were missing  
Iraqi forces ambushed an army supply convoy around An  
ah, a major crossing point over the Euphrates north-  
Basra.



#### Fight for Al Faw

A British Royal Marine from 42 Commando fires a Milan wire-guided missile at an Iraqi position on the Al Faw peninsula in southern Iraq on Friday. (Photo by Jon Mills, Pool)





*My fellow soldiers, employees and family members of the United States Army Reserve,*

These are challenging and stressful times. Our nation has turned to its Army once again, to embark upon an effort that will test our mettle as soldiers. Our nation is facing a threat unlike many that we have faced in the past. For only the second time in our history our enemies have brought the fight to our home. Some of our fellow countrymen seem worried about whether we will succeed. I am not. Let me tell you why.

I have a high honor and privilege of being a member of the finest Army in the world. And I have the singular honor of leading one of the three elements of that Army - the United States Army Reserve. Not a day goes by that I don't thank God for the privilege of serving with such a dedicated group of civilian patriots. Men and women who freely and of their own accord, have stepped forward to serve selflessly; willingly with pride and courage. I have met many of you by now and I will see many more of you in the days and weeks that follow. Everywhere I go I hear the same thing. "Yes, it's hard to be uprooted from my family; yes I worry that I will still have a good job when I get home. But this is what I signed up to do when I took my oath. I'm here and I'm going to get the job done".

You represent the ideals upon which this country is founded. Patriotism. Selfless service. Honor. Sacrifice for the common good. And I will tell you that the people of your country appreciate what you are doing. One only has to pick up a newspaper or to turn on the news to see the vast outpouring of support from our neighbors across the land. We see it when you ship out from your unit for mobilization stations. The patriotic display of flags in your communities, the presence of dignitaries and ordinary civilians wish you well, and the tear of people who may not even know you personally when your bus pulls away. Their hopes and prayers for your safe return go with you.

Before we are done many more of you will be mobilized. We must all be preparing for that possibility right now. If you are not mobilized and have not been alerted you should be thinking about what you can do to assist those who are and preparing for mobilization now. We are all in the fight regardless of where we are. This is not the time to give anything less than 110%!

There are some other things that I want you to do right now. I want you to tell your loved ones how much they mean to you and how much you appreciate the support that they give you in your military career so you can serve. Our family readiness program has worked wonders over the years correcting some of the problems we encountered during Desert Storm, but family readiness only works because our families and loved ones give of themselves freely to serve us and other family members. You, personally, need to be confident that your loved ones will be alright while you serve. Check all your plans for their well being. And talk to them about what it means to you to serve your country in these times. Share with them the pride that you share with CSM Jones, CSM Piacentini and I when we have been with you.

Like the rest of your countrymen, Command Sergeant Major and I cannot adequately express how proud we are of you. Be assured that we will do everything within our powers to look out for your interests and those of your loved ones. You are in the hearts and prayers of a grateful nation and will stay there until we finish the job at hand.

May our creator bless this nation, our people, and those who serve in its defense.

James R. Helmly  
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army  
Chief, Army Reserve